GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:331
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
DEMAND OF LAND LINE TELEPHONE
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to increasing number of mobile telephone the demand for land line telephone has been decreasing during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have not been able to give telephone on demand even with less demand;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have reviewed the administrative structure of the MTNL and BSNL keeping in view the low demandof land line telephone;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether the BSNL proposes to introduce cellular servicein small towns where private companies have yet to provide phone services?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATEIN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRIMATI SU MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that due to increasing number of mobile telephones the demand of land line telephone has been experiencing downward trend. The registered demand of land line telephones for the last three years of (BSNL)Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and (MTNL) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited are as given below:

BSNL

Sl. No.	Year	Demand for telephone
1.	1999-2000	6129563
2.	2000-2001	4925728
3.	2001-2002	3887029

MTNL

Sl.No.	Year	Demand for telephone
1.	1999-2000	617610
2.	2000-2001	560248
3.	2001-2002	566627

(c) & (d): BSNL & MTNL is providing telephones ondemand in most of the urban areas. The waiting list is scattered mainly in the rural areas. The provision of telephone connections by traditional wired line is not cost effective. Therefore, Wirelesssystems are being deployed to provide telephones in rural areas.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) BSNL`s (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited)current plans for Cellular services envisage the coverage of all district headquarters and other important cities. Further expansion would be based on anticipated demand in the areas and availability of funds.